

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5

1. A document management device having a document storage unit for storing a document, comprising:

a usage permission information request
10 reception unit configured to receive a usage permission information request from a usage permission information requesting client, said usage permission information permitting usage of the document storage unit;

a usage permission information generation
15 unit configured to generate the usage permission information in response to the received usage permission information request; and

a usage permission information transmission
unit configured to transmit the usage permission
20 information to the usage permission information requesting client.

25

2. The document management device as
claimed in claim 1, wherein

the usage permission information generation
unit generates the usage permission information and
5 identification information of the usage permission
information, and holds the usage permission information.

10

3. The document management device as
claimed in claim 2, wherein

the usage permission information
transmission unit transmits the identification
15 information to the usage permission information
requesting client as the usage permission information.

20

4. The document management device as
claimed in claim 2, wherein

the usage permission information includes
identification information of the document storage unit
25 and authority information of the usage permission

information.

5

5. The document management device as
claimed in claim 2, wherein

the usage permission information includes
identification information of the document storage unit
10 and effective period information of the usage
permission information.

15

6. The document management device as
claimed in claim 2, wherein

the usage permission information includes
identification information of the document storage unit
20 and information of a maximum number of connections with
the document management device.

25

7. The document management device as
claimed in claim 2, wherein

the usage permission information includes
identification information of the document storage unit
5 and information of a maximum number of operations of
document storage in the document storage unit.

10

8. The document management device as
claimed in claim 2, wherein

the usage permission information includes
identification information of the document storage unit
15 and information of a storage capacity in the document
storage unit.

20

9. The document management device as
claimed in claim 2, wherein

the usage permission information includes a
plurality of items of identification information of the
25 document storage units.

5 10. The document management device as
claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a usage request reception unit configured to
receive a usage request from a usage requesting client
for using the document storage unit; and

10 a usage unit configured to use the document
storage unit according to the usage permission
information.

15

11. The document management device as
claimed in claim 10, wherein

the usage requesting client is different
20 from the usage permission information requesting client.

25

12. The document management device as

claimed in claim 10, wherein

the usage request includes information on
the document and information on the document storage
unit.

5

13. The document management device as
10 claimed in claim 10, wherein

the usage unit stores the document in the
document storage unit according to the usage permission
information.

15

14. The document management device as
claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

20 a document identification information
appending unit configured to append document
identification information for identifying the stored
document to the usage permission information, said
document identification information being appended as
25 an editable data.

5 15. The document management device as
claimed in claim 13, further comprising:
 a document identification information
transmission unit configured to transmit document
identification information for identifying the stored
10 document to the usage requesting client.

15 16. The document management device as
claimed in claim 13, further comprising:
 a document usage permission information
transmission unit configured to transmit information
for permitting usage of the stored document to the
20 usage requesting client.

25 17. The document management device as

claimed in claim 10, wherein

the usage unit includes a determination unit that determines whether the document storage unit requested by the usage request is at a lower level than
5 the document storage unit permitted for use by the usage permission information generated by the usage permission information generation unit.

10

18. The document management device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a document list information request
15 reception unit configured to receive a document list information request from a document list information requesting client for acquiring document list information of at least one document stored in the document storage unit; and

20 a document list information transmission unit configured to transmit the document list information to the document list information requesting client in response to the received document list information request.

25

19. The document management device as
5 claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a document content information request
reception unit configured to receive a document content
information request from a document content information
requesting client for acquiring information of contents
10 of the document stored in the document storage unit;
and

a document content information transmission
unit configured to transmit the document content
information to the document content information
15 requesting client in response to the received document
content information request.

20

20. The document management device as
claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a connection permission information request
reception unit configured to receive a connection
25 permission information request from a connection

permission information requesting client for acquiring connection permission information that includes the usage permission information and permits connection with the document management device;

5 a connection permission information generation unit configured to generate the connection permission information in response to the received connection permission information request; and

 a connection permission information
10 transmission unit configured to transmit the connection permission information to the connection permission information requesting client.

15

21. The document management device as claimed in claim 20, further comprising:

 an identification information request
20 reception unit configured to receive an identification information request, made by the connection permission information requesting client, for acquiring identification information of the document storage unit, said identification information of the document storage
25 unit including the connection permission information

and the usage permission information; and

an identification information transmission
unit configured to transmit the identification
information to the connection permission information
5 requesting client that requests the identification
information in response to the received identification
information request.

10

22. A method of a document management
device having a document storage unit for storing a
document, comprising the steps of:

15 receiving a usage permission information
request from a usage permission information requesting
client for acquiring usage permission information that
permits usage of the document storage unit;

generating the usage permission information
20 in response to the received usage permission
information request; and

transmitting the usage permission
information to the usage permission information
requesting client.

25

23. The method as claimed in claim 22,
5 further comprising the steps of:
receiving a usage request from a usage
requesting client for using the document storage unit;
and
using the document storage unit according to
10 the usage permission information.

15 24. The method as claimed in claim 23,
wherein
the usage requesting client is different
from the usage permission information requesting client
that receives the usage permission information
20 transmitted in the step of transmitting the usage
permission information.

25. A program executable by a computer for operating a document management device having a document storage unit for storing a document, comprising the steps of:

5 receiving a request from a client for acquiring usage permission information that permits usage of the document storage unit;

 generating the usage permission information in response to the received request; and

10 transmitting the usage permission information to the client.

15

26. A storage medium storing a program executable by a computer for operating a document management device having a document storage unit for storing a document, comprising the steps of:

20 receiving a request from a client for acquiring usage permission information that permits usage of the document storage unit;

 generating the usage permission information in response to the received request; and

25 transmitting the usage permission

information to the client.